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11
3 AUG 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR: Brigadier General Merron N. Maples
Chief, Production Center
DIA AP-1
Defense Intelligence Agency

SUBJECT: CIA Adjustments to DIA Estimates of Logistic Requirements of the Communist Main Force in South Vietnam

1. The Office of Research and Reports of this Agency is publishing a report entitled Analysis of the Problems of Foreign Logistic Support to the Communist Main Force in South Vietnam. The purpose of this report is to trace the history of the infiltration of men and supplies from abroad in support of the Communist main force in South Vietnam, to examine the requirements for logistic support from abroad under various assumptions concerning levels of combat activity and effectiveness, and to quantify the capacity and use of land and sea infiltration routes.

2. In examining the logistic requirements under different levels of combat activity, the analysts preparing the report have made use of basic estimates prepared by the staff of the Defense Intelligence Agency of the requirements for military equipment and supplies of the Communist main force in South Vietnam. However we have felt it necessary to revise the estimates supplied by the Defense Intelligence Agency for the logistic requirements for the 9 battalions of the Peoples Army of Vietnam (PAVN).

3. We understand that the 9 PAVN battalions are equipped with the same weapons as those regular VC battalions which have been supplied with Communist arms. Given an identical level of combat intensity, we would expect that the two similarly equipped units would have the same ammunition requirements. Also, we believe that the food requirements of the PAVN can be supplied locally in the south, as with the V. C. Admittedly, the PAVN battalions would have somewhat greater needs for communications and quartermaster supplies, and there may be some small additional POL needs. However, the present DIA estimate of logistic requirements for the PAVN are of a different order of magnitude than those for the VC battalions equipped with Communist weapons.

DIA review(s) completed.

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4. It would be impossible to resolve these differences in time to meet the priority deadlines set for publication of this report. We have, therefore, arbitrarily set the PAVN logistic requirements at those of the VC, inflated by 20 percent to account for some additional communications and quartermaster requirements. It is my hope that the differences in the two estimates can be resolved as the CIA and DIA analysts continue their close coordination on the Vietnam problem.

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OTTO E. OTTER
Director
Research and Reports

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